

Evergreen News

A Pastor's Perception

Our leadership team recently gathered for a strategic planning session, and one theme kept rising to the surface: *we want to be a **welcoming place***. Not just a place that says we're welcoming, but a place where people actually *feel*/welcomed. That's a conversation worth having, and it starts with an honest question.

I was recently talking with someone who regularly cooks salmon for their spouse. They don't enjoy salmon themselves. In fact, they're pretty tired of cooking it, smelling like it, and having their whole house smell like it. Their spouse? No complaints whatsoever. Loves the salmon. Doesn't seem to notice the lingering scent at all.

That got me curious. When you're the one who loves something, maybe you become desensitized to how it affects the people around you. You stop noticing what others notice right away.

I like salmon. Amanda, not as much. We still have it on occasion, but I will tell you this: even I don't love the way the smell lingers. Because it's not the norm in our home, we notice it fresh every time. And when we do, we'd really prefer a change in aroma.

The Aroma of Christ

There's a beautiful image in Scripture that describes followers of Jesus as "**the aroma of Christ**" (2 Corinthians 2:15). It's a powerful metaphor, the idea that our lives carry a fragrance that others experience, whether we realize it or not.

So here's the question I've been sitting with: when others come to West Green Tree, is there a delightful aroma? And I'm not specifically talking about scent. I'm talking about everything someone experiences from the moment they pull into the parking lot. What does the building say before any of us get a chance to say a word? What does someone see when they walk their child to a classroom for the first time? What do they feel when they step through our doors—do they sense that this is a place where people care, where things are tended to, where someone was expecting them?

Think about it this way: if you were visiting someone's home for the first time, you'd notice things the people who live there stopped seeing years ago. The scuffed walls. The flickering light in the hallway. The room that hasn't been refreshed in a while. None of those things mean the people inside don't care - but a guest doesn't know that yet. All they have is what's in front of them. First impressions speak before we do.

Just like the person who loves salmon and can't smell it anymore, we might not notice the things that are perfectly comfortable for us but unfamiliar—or

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- *Ladies Bible Study Mondays @ 11 am
- *Youth Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm
- *Men's Bible Study Thursdays @ 7 pm
- *Men's Bible Study Saturdays @ 7 am
- *Youth Sunday March 22nd @ 9:45 am
- *Tiny Timbers Art Show Sunday, March 22nd

Our Vision Statement:
"To Know, Love, & Follow Jesus by serving All"



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>Juarez Trip 8:30 am Sunday School Align Life Shower 9:15 am 9:45 am Large Group Gathering</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Juarez Trip WWW 11 am</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Juarez Trip</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Juarez Trip Youth 6:30 pm</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Juarez Trip Men's Bible Study 7 pm</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Juarez Trip</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Juarez Trip 3M 7 am</p>  |
| <p>8</p> <p>8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Large Group Gathering</p> | <p>9</p> <p>WWW 11 am</p> | <p>10</p> <p>Leadership Team Mtg. 7 pm</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Egg Stuffing 6 pm Youth 6:30 pm Shawl Gathering 7 pm</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 7 pm</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>3M 7 am Sisters in Christ 9 am</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Large Group Gathering</p> | <p>16</p> <p>WWW 11 am</p> | <p>17</p> <p>Ministry Team Mtgs. 7 pm</p>  | <p>18</p> <p>Youth 6:30 pm</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 7 pm</p> | <p>20</p>  | <p>21</p> <p>3M 7 am</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>8:30 am Sunday School Tiny Timbers Art Show 9:45 am Large Group Gathering/Youth Sunday</p> | <p>23</p> <p>WWW 11 am</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Youth 6:30 pm</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 7 pm</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>3M 7 am</p>  |
| <p>29</p> <p>Palm Sunday 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Large Group Gathering</p> | <p>30</p> <p>WWW 11 am</p> | <p>31</p> | | | | |



Hunting Season

It's almost Hunting Season...EGG hunting season that is! We will hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 28th, at 10 am. BUT before that happens, we need your help! Individually wrapped candy or toys/stickers small enough to fit in a plastic Easter Egg are needed. Donations of candy/toys will be accepted until March 8th, and may be placed in the lobby on the purple covered table. On Wednesday, March 11th, we will need folks to volunteer just a couple hours of time to stuff the eggs. The plan is to work from 6 pm - 8 pm. Volunteers will also be needed on egg hunting day. See Dana Youtz with questions or for ways you can help.

It's a Baby!

We are having a baby shower to support Align Life Ministries Sunday, March 1st, 9:15 AM till 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Stop in with a gift and enjoy light refreshments. A list of needs is below.

We gratefully accept new or gently used donations of the items listed below:

- Pack n' Plays
- Bouncer seats
- Activity Mats
- High chairs (no missing straps, please)
- Bassinets
- Strollers (no missing straps, please)
- Exersaucers
- Activity seats
- Changing tables
- Baby gates
- Swings
- Apparel and apparel accessories (preemie through 5T)

In the interest of safety, we gratefully accept in new condition only:

- Car seats
- Changing pads
- Feeding utensils, bottles, bottle liners, and sippy cups
- Pacifiers
- Baby bath tubs
- Baby food grinder or baby food warmer
- Cloth baby diapers
- Infant toys
- Unopened formula
- Unopened baby hygiene items
- (shampoo, wash, powder, lotion, oil, diaper ointment)
- Baby wipes
- Boppy pillows
- Walmart/Target gift cards are appreciated
- Donation (cash/check payable to Align Life Ministries)

Easter at WGT

Plan to join us for Easter!

We will share in Love Feast Maundy Thursday, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided.

Sunday, April 5th, join us for a Sunrise Gathering at 6:45 am followed by a light breakfast at 7:15 am. Sunday School/Small Groups will begin at 8:30 am with the Large Group Gathering to follow at 9:45 am. We hope you'll join us and will invite a friend (or two!) to share in this gift Jesus gave.



Anniversaries

- 3/2 - Shawn & Lisa Cannon
- 3/3 - Colton & Brienna Brown
- 3/17 - Dick & Kathy Youtz
- 3/25 - Bill & Ann Weaver

Birthdays

- 3/1 - Katherine Gebhard
Cheyenne Hitz
- 3/6 - Sandra Dickason
- 3/7 - David Spayde
- 3/8 - Mandy O'Brien
Brody Dickson
Lynne Testerman
- 3/10 - Dean Garber
- 3/12 - Gary Collins
- 3/13 - Brooke Coble
- 3/19 - Jeanie Hinshaw
- 3/20 - Larry Brosey
- 3/21 - Traci Clugston
Linda Gerdel
- 3/26 - Linda Tripp
- 3/27 - Sylvia Coble
- 3/31 - Lauren Youtz

Working Together

There's always so much to accomplish and work on in the Worship Arts Coordinator role! Whenever something comes off the to-do list, it seems as if two more things get added. But it's all good—evidence of good things happening within the body of Christ at West Green Tree.

Oftentimes, I find that I can handle most of the things on my to-do list by myself or with some small assistance from someone else. But every now and then, there's a task that I have no idea how to solve. Often, those tasks fall to the bottom of the priority list, and I have a bad habit of just kicking the can down the road and putting them off to a later time.

One of those tasks for me was patching up the drum shield roof. The roof was donated to us by South Lebanon Community Church. It helps contain the drum volume on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. When we received it, the roof was just a bit too big, so it was resized for our needs. However, when it was resized, it was left unfinished and a bit ragged in the back.

It was on my to-do list for a while to get this taken care of and neatly fixed, but alas, it never happened. Enter Sarah Clugston. Sarah took one look at the roof panels and knew right away what she could do to fix them. In about 20 minutes, she had the roof panels neatly sewn and beautifully tacked together. Just like that, an item I had been putting off for a while came off the to-do list. Had I taken the opportunity to ask for help sooner, it could have been completed much more quickly.

I'm reminded of why we serve together and are joined as a body. Each part complements the others. While Sarah doesn't play the drums (at least to my knowledge), she was able to offer her sewing abilities to fix the roof panels and help us out. She jumped in to serve when her gifts could be used to build up the body.

Ephesians 4 paints a beautiful picture of the church coming together and using our gifts so that the body may be built up. I'm reminded through this example how much we need one another to use our gifts so that His Church may be strengthened.

Thank you, Sarah, for your service—and thank You, Jesus, for giving each of us different gifts and abilities that, when joined together, honor You!

Sing'cerely,

Ryan M. Arndt, Worship Arts Coordinator/Licensed Minister

Game Night!

On January 31st the Nurture Ministry Team held a game night. The evening consisted of games, pizza, snacks, and lots of laughter! We played games some of us had never heard of before but now are looking to get for our families. The evening was a fun adventure with over 50 people in attendance. We hope you will join us next time!!



2026 Juarez Mission Trip Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The 2026 Juarez Mission Trip team hosted a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser following the Large Group Gathering on February 15th, and we were incredibly blessed by the response. More than 75 people joined us for a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and support.

We are so grateful for the generosity shown by our church family and friends. Your financial support helps make this mission possible, and your encouragement means more than you know.

As we continue preparing for our trip, we ask that you keep our team, our journey, and the people we will encounter in your prayers. We are excited to see how God will work through this mission and thankful to have such a supportive community standing behind us.

Thank you again for being part of this mission with us!





Kingdom Quest VBS will take children on an epic journey to discover God's Kingdom through fun, interactive activities & biblical teachings. Join us July 13th - 17th!

A Pastor's Perception (Continued from Cover)

even uninviting—to someone seeing it all with fresh eyes. We've been in the house so long we've stopped smelling what we smell like.

It Starts with a Mindset

To carry the aroma of Christ likely begins with having the **mindset of Christ**, having the interests of others in mind (Philippians 2). And who are the "others"? They're the ones we're called to love - our neighbors. The family who drops off their child at the preschool. The person who visits on a Sunday morning. The community member who checks out our website to see what we're all about.

When our neighbors think of West Green Tree, do they think of a place where they are welcome and where they belong? That's the question I want us to carry with us in the months ahead. Not just "are we friendly?"—because most of us are—but "are we paying attention to what it's like to be new here? What does someone experience before they ever meet one of us?"

A welcoming culture isn't something we check off a list. It's something we cultivate together, one small, thoughtful choice at a time. Sometimes it's relational: sitting with someone you don't know instead of saving a seat for your usual group. Sometimes it's practical: taking a fresh look at the spaces we've walked past a thousand times and asking, "If I were here for the first time, what would this tell me?" Sometimes it's as simple as a working light bulb, a fresh coat of paint, or a room that tells a child, "Someone prepared this just for you."

I'm excited about this focus as a church family. And I'm asking all of us, myself included, to get curious about what we might not be seeing anymore. Let's try to walk through our own doors with fresh eyes. Let's make sure the aroma people experience when they encounter West Green Tree is the fragrance of Christ: grace, warmth, and genuine love - in every hallway, every room, and every interaction.

Pastor Shawn

West Green Tree Church of the Brethren
Statement of Belief
TIER 1: CORE ESSENTIALS

1. God - The Trinity

We believe in one God, eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all.

(Matthew 28:19)

2. Jesus Christ - Our Savior and Example

We believe Jesus Christ is God's Son, our Savior and Lord, whose life of humble service and peace shows us how to live as His disciples.

(Philippians 2:5-8)

3. Scripture - Our Authority

We believe the Bible is God's inspired and trustworthy Word, with the New Testament as our rule of faith and practice.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

4. Salvation - God's Gift

We believe salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection paid the penalty for our sin.

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

5. Discipleship - Following Jesus

We believe Jesus calls us to love God completely, love our neighbors as ourselves, serve others sacrificially, and make disciples of all nations through believer's baptism and teaching.

(Matthew 22:37-40)

6. The Church - Body of Christ

We believe the Church is the body of Christ where all believers are united as God's family, using their gifts to serve one another as a priesthood of all believers.

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

7. Brethren Practices - Obedience to Jesus

We believe in practicing the ordinances Jesus taught: believer's baptism by triune immersion, Love Feast (with footwashing and communion), anointing with oil, simple living, and marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman.

(John 13:14-15)

8. Resurrection & Eternal Life - Our Future

We believe in the resurrection of all people-the saved to eternal life with God and the lost to eternal separation from Him.

(John 5:28-29)



Tiny Timbers Prayer Cards

Last Fall, Tiny Timbers distributed prayer cards that included the name of a current preschool student/family. Life gets busy and things tend to be put on the back burner SO this is a gentle reminder to please pray for your student & their family!
Thank You!



TINY TIMBERS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Openings are available for the upcoming 26/27 school year!

Contact Amy Winters for more information
director@westgreentree.org



Hello from Tiny Timbers!

I'm sure we're all thinking the same thing, thank goodness for some warmer weather! Hopefully this snow will start melting and we will be able to get some time outside soon. Even though we were all cooped up, we had a lot of fun things happening in January and early February!

We started off January with a snow theme where we got to make some art with puffy paint that looks like snow! Then we had two of our favorite themes back to back; we learned about dinosaurs and animals. During our dinosaur unit we talked about carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores and we got to make our very own dinosaur footprint fossils! We learned that we know so much about dinosaurs because of the fossils that paleontologists have dug up. The class favorite dinosaur is for sure the Tyrannosaurus rex. During our animals unit we learned about all of the different places animals live and some of the special skills animals have like camouflage. We also got to go on a fun jungle hunt. We used the rhythm sticks to create the sound effects of the jungle like foot steps, slithering snakes, and a waterfall. At the end of the hunt we even found some gold that we got to take home!

Our Bible time has also been fun! Did you know that Jesus calmed down a huge storm just by telling it to hush? We thought that was just so amazing. He is so powerful! We also had one of our favorite memory verses so far this year: "Do everything without grumbling or arguing." Philippians 2:14. We practiced this one really hard both in trying to memorize it and to follow it. That's a big part of why we memorize verses, right? Like Psalm 119:11 says, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." We love to have visitors come and read the Bible stories to us! If you are interested in coming to visit on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, or if you'd like some more information, please reach out to me at tinytimbersmwf@westgreentree.org. If you don't email, you can leave a note for Kessy Spivey in the Tiny Timbers mailbox with your name and contact info, and I will be sure to get back to you.

One of the most special things we got to celebrate this month was that one of our AM class friends was adopted by his forever family! We are praising God for the ways that he loves and takes care of His children both young and old and I hope you will join us in that.

I once again want to thank each and every one of you for the things you do that help our school happen, even if it is something as simple as letting us use your space during the week. This school is such a blessing to the kids, families, and teachers. It is truly one of my favorite places to be, and I am sure not everyone can say that about their job!

I hope you all have a blessed rest of your February!

-Miss Kessy



740 Greentree Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

WEST GREEN TREE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Sunday Service Times:

- ◆ **8:30 am Sunday School/Small Groups**
- ◆ **9:45 am Large Group Gathering**
- ◆ **Live Stream via YouTube “West Green Tree Worship”**

Weekday Activities:

- ◆ **Mondays: Ladies Bible Study @ 11 am**
- ◆ **Wednesday: Youth @ 6:30pm**
- ◆ **Thursday: Men’s Bible Study @ 7 pm**
- ◆ **Saturday: Men’s Bible Study @ 7 am**

Phone: 717-653-5367

Fax: 717-653-5056

www.westgreentree.org

*To everything
there is
a season,
a time for
every purpose
under heaven...*

ECCLESIASTES 3:1 NKJV

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